



March 27, 2023

RE: County Comments on H.F. 2890

Dear Chair Moller and Members of the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), the Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA), Minnesota Rural Counties (MRC), Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC), and Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers collectively represent all 87 counties in Minnesota which are responsible for the supervision of 80% of the people on probation in the state.

We also want to thank Chair Moller for the inclusion of the community supervision appropriations in the DE amendment for H.F. 2890 for the three delivery systems and tribal governments. While we recognize the increase is significant, counties have been working for almost three years on the proposal in H.F. 1838 to transform the probation system through a new formula and a data-based appropriation request of approximately \$83 million.

Counties urge your committee and other members of the Legislature to continue work on changing the funding formula for community supervision by passing the language and appropriations proposed in H.F. 1838. We appreciate the support of Vice Chair Feist and the work she has done this session on the bill.

Creating a funding model for community supervision that is transparent, needs based, and equitable among county and state supervision providers has been a years-long effort. The AMC Community Supervision Workgroup, along with partner organizations, worked for years to create the proposal in H.F. 1838. The policy recommendations change the community supervision funding formula to apply one method of funding for all counties, regardless of delivery system. All three probation delivery systems are retained which provides counties with local choice and does not result in any change in employment status of county and state employees.

Equally important, the bill creates the Community Supervision Advisory Committee which will ensure that all counties are able to provide evidence-based practices through measures such as the development of a training and quality assurance program. The funding and policy provisions in the bill are intended to work in concert to ensure Minnesota is seeing the best outcomes for clients and communities.

Every county in Minnesota has passed a resolution in support of a new funding formula.

Please ensure your appropriation not only supports public safety in the near future but fixes the funding formula to support all counties into the future and ensure the sustainability of our system.

Sincerely,



Julie Ring, *Executive Director*
Association of Minnesota Counties



Matt Massman, *Executive Director*
Minnesota Inter-County Association



Luke Johnson, *Chair*
Minnesota Rural Counties



Michael Schommer, *President*
Minnesota Association of County
Probation Officers



Tami Jo Lieberg, *President*
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